

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are pending in the application. Claims 2-5, 8, 23-26, 29, 33-36 and 39 have been amended, and claims 42-44 have been added. Claims 1, 22, and 32 have been canceled with prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Drawing Objections and Specification Amendments

As stated above, Examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to comply with CFR 1.84(p)(5). Applicants have submitted replacement figures for the Examiner's approval. Applicants has reinserted previously deleted reference numbers and amended two paragraphs of the specification to refer to these numbers. It is clear from the drawings as filed that the consecutive frames shown in Figures 6 and 7 were labeled 601 to 611 and 701 to 711, respectively. Applicants have simply stated as much in the specification. Accordingly, Applicants request that the amendments to the specification be accepted and the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10, 22-26, 28, 29, 31-36, 38, 39, and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ajanovic et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,145,039 (hereinafter "Ajanovic"). Ajanovic discloses an interface to transfer data between a memory controller hub and an input/output (I/O) hub of a chipset within a computer system. (See Abstract).

Applicants have added new independent claims 42-44 to bring out a feature of the present invention. As recited therein, a host controller initiates and performs a first transaction at two different times allowing a second transaction between the hub and agent to occur between the two different times. Such a feature is neither shown nor suggested by the Ajanovic reference. In

Ajanovic, looking at Figure 3, and Col. 3, lines 1-9, a hub agent obtains ownership of the hub link via arbitration and sends a request transaction. In response, a separate transaction occurs where the responding hub agent arbitrates for ownership of the hub link and data will be sent to the requesting hub agent. Thus, in Ajanovic, aside from the issue as to whether the requesting and responding agents are performing the same transaction, it is clear that Ajanovic does not teach or suggest a host controller (or requesting hub agent) that initiates and performs the first transaction at two separate times as recited in the claims.

Based on the amendments and arguments above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-5, 7, 8, 10, 23-26, 28, 29, 31, 33-36, 38, 39, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6, 9, 27, 30, 37, and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ajanovic in view of McAlear, U.S. Patent No. 6,389,029 (hereinafter “McAlear”). Applicants reiterate the arguments presented above concerning the allowability of the remaining claims. McAlear fails to make up for the deficiencies of Ajanovic. McAlear refers to ACKs, NAKs, and stall handshake signals. McAlear does not refer to the first and second transactions as recited in these rejected claims. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6, 9, 27, 30, 37, and 40 are allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For all the above reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4255 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,
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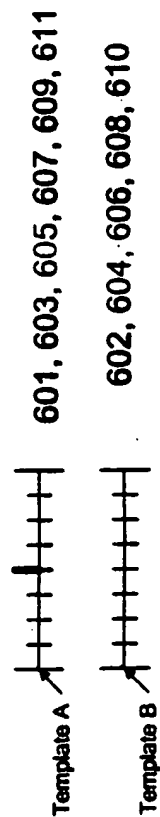
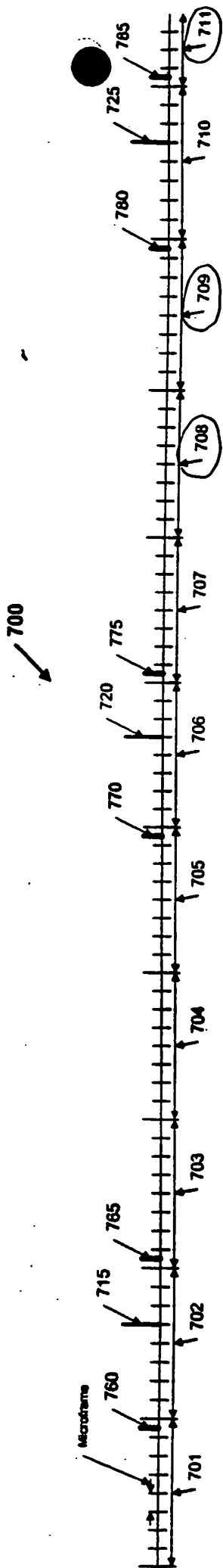


Figure 7



Template A 701, 705, 709

Template B 703, 707, 711

Template C 702, 706, 710